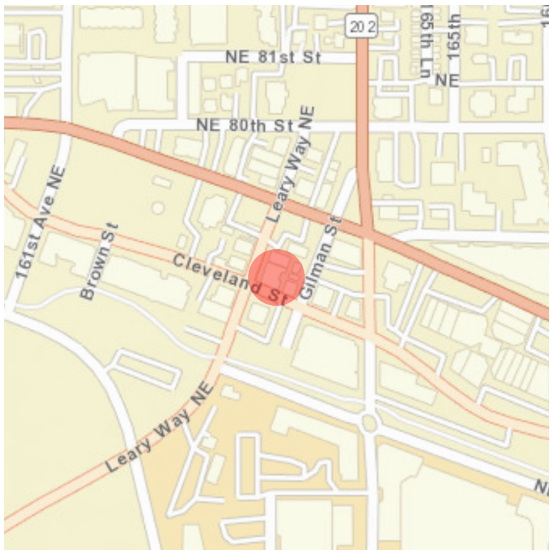
Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Hotel Walther

Property ID: 340545

Location



Address: 7844 LEARY Way NE, REDMOND, WA 98052

Tax No/Parcel No: 7198800062

Plat/Block/Lot: Block 5/Lots 1&2

Geographic Areas: King County, REDMOND Quadrangle, T25R05E11, Congressional District 1, 48

Information

Number of stories:

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1910	☐
Remodel	1970	☑

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Hotel
Domestic	Domestic - Hotel

Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
123112-11-FHWA, , Redmond Way and Cleveland Street Couplet, Fed Aid TBD		Determined Not Eligible	, 7/9/2013
2011-07-00111, , Assessors Data Project: King County E		Not Determined	

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Hotel Walther

Property ID: 340545

Photos

southwest corner

front (west) elevation

southeast corner

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Hotel Walther

Property ID: 340545

Inventory Details - 7/2/2011

Common name: Pho Tan

Date recorded: 7/2/2011

Field Recorder: Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Form Type	Commercial

Surveyor Opinion

Significance narrative: Data included on this historic property inventory form (HPI) detail stemmed from County Assessor building records imported by the Washington State Department of Archaeology of Historic Preservation (DAHP) into WISAARD in 2011. This upload reduces data entry burden on community volunteers and historical societies participating in the survey and inventory of their communities. The intent of this project is directed specifically to facilitating community and public involvement in stewardship, increasing data accuracy, and providing a versatile planning tool to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

Project methodology entailed use of the University of Washington's State Parcel Database (http://depts.washington.edu/wagis/projects/parcels/development.php) to provide the base parcel layer for CLGs. Filtering of building data collected from each county trimmed out all properties built after 1969, as well as all current, previously inventoried properties. Translation of building data descriptors to match fields in HPI allowed the data upload. Calculation of point locations utilized the center of each parcel. Data on this detail provides a snapshot of building information as of 2011. A detailed project methodology description resides with DAHP. Project team members: Historic Preservation Northwest, GeoEngineers, and Artifacts Consulting, Inc. (project lead).

Physical description: The building at 7844 Leary Way NE, Redmond, is located in King County. According to the county assessor, the structure was built in 1910 and is a restaurant. Also according to the county assessor, the structure was remodeled in 1970. The 1-story building has a commercial form.

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Hotel Walther

Property ID: 340545

Inventory Details - 3/13/2013

Common name: Pho Tan

Date recorded: 3/13/2013

Field Recorder: Lori Durio Price

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination 123112-11-FHWA determined on 7/9/2013

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Structural System	Wood - Balloon Frame
Cladding	Wood - Board & Batten
Form Type	Commercial
Plan	L-Shape
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Metal

Styles:

Period	Style Details
Early 20th Century American Movements (1900-1940)	Commercial

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative:

Prior to the passage of the 1850 Oregon Donation Land Act, only a few fur trappers and explorers passed through the Puget Sound region and what is today the city of Redmond. A year after the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 the first Euroamerican settlers arrived in the Duwamish River Valley, south of the study area. Although settlement continued over the next 20 years, the first pioneers did not establish land claims in what would become Redmond until 1871.

In that year Warren Wentworth Perrigo and Captain Luke McRedmond arrived at the north end of Lake Sammamish. Perrigo built the Melrose Hotel to accommodate the various travelers who would take land claims or continue on to Seattle. The popularity (and prosperity) of the hotel led others to call the settlement Melrose, including the U.S postal service when a Melrose post office was opened in 1881 (Dudley, 1998). Prior to the assignation of the name Melrose, the settlement was known as Salmonberg due to the abundance of salmon in the Sammamish River. Subsequently the town was renamed Redmond for Captain McRedmond. It was platted in 1891 and incorporated in 1912.

The region was covered in old growth forests, and by about 1880 a logging industry was in place that included sawmills, shingle companies, and large logging operations. The Seattle Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad (SLS&E) came to Redmond in 1889, further opening the area for the timber industry (Bagley, 1929). However, it did not take long to deplete the old growth forest, which resulted in the end of large-scale logging by the early decades of the twentieth century (Tetra Tech, Inc., 2002:11). Dairy and other types of agriculture became the dominant industry by the late 1920s, including vegetables, bulbs, strawberries, and poultry (Bagley, 1929). Redmond might have remained a small farming community but for its annexing practices between the 1950s and 1967, construction of the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge across Lake Washington in 1963, and its attraction to service and technology industries beginning in the 1970s (City of Redmond, n.d.).

This building was originally known as the Hotel Walther, built by Fred and Mary Heiser Walther in 1910 after their previous hotel on Gilman Street burned down. In 1916 it was known as the Grand Central Hotel. By 1929 it was the only hotel in Redmond. During this period it hosted Town Council meetings and housed the public library from 1930 to 1933. "It was here in the early 1930s that the entire Town Council was arrested and taken to jail in Seattle for illegal gambling" (Redmond Historical Society n.d.). The hotel closed during the Great Depression. The building has since then been the location of various businesses and has been extensively remodeled.

The Hotel Walther is associated with the founding of Redmond and its early development as one of its earliest hotels and the site of many community activities. It is not associated with any significant events or persons, and does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and is not the work of a master. Despite its historic importance, it has suffered significant loss of integrity of feeling, materials, workmanship, and design. No physical characteristics of the original building remain visible. Therefore the Hotel Walther is not eligible for the NRHP or WHR.

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Hotel Walther

Property ID: 340545

Physical description: This is a two story, frame building with an L-shaped footprint, sited on a corner lot. It has a flat roof with a shallow parapet. The entire second story has been covered with vertical metal siding and no openings are visible. The metal siding also covers the south and rear (east) elevations. The first floor on the west elevation is clad in wood board and batten siding and houses two commercial units. There are two small additions featuring multiple plate glass windows that project out on the west elevation. A canvas awning shades the west elevation and wraps around the southwest corner. Both the west and north elevations have one wood, fully glazed entry door. The rear elevation is also covered in metal siding but retains an exterior chimney of painted brick. The building has a small one-story addition on the north side with two additional plate glass windows and another wooden, fully glazed door.

Bibliography:

Bagley, Clarence B. 1929. History of King County. Vol. I, pp. 847-855. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co, Chicago.

City of Redmond, Washington. n.d. Redmond's Historical Information. Electronic document, accessed November 16, 2012: http://www.redmond.gov/Government/AboutRedmond/RedmondsHistory/

Dudley, Brier. 1998. Redmond's Family Feud. The Seattle Times, Thursday, November 12, 1998.

King County Department of Assessments. 2013. http://info.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/eRealProperty/Detail.aspx?ParcelNbr=7198800062. Accessed March 13, 2013.

Redmond Historical Society. n.d. "Grand Central Hotel - Walking Tour Building 21." Accessed online March 13. 2013. http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/RHS/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=184:walking-tour-building-21&catid=26:places-of-historic-interest&Itemid=186

Tetra Tech, Inc. 2002. Sammamish River Corridor Final Report. Tetra Tech, Inc., Seattle, Washington.